

Plymouth
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



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November 3, 2024

All Saints Sunday

Plymouth Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

November 3, 2024 • All Saints Sunday • 10 a.m.

**An asterisk invites you to stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

Chiming the Trinity

Kathe Simons

Prelude

Mary Drysdale (Tongue Drum)

Land Acknowledgement

Kathe Simons

All throughout Helena, and underneath the ground where we walk, are the ancestors of the Niitsítapi [nee-itsee-TAH-peh] and Séliš [SAY-lish] people. From the 1700's through the present, these Indigenous people have resisted and persevered over colonialism and genocide. We say land acknowledgements to remind us of the true history of this country, and we acknowledge that we benefit from these historic injustices. And in doing so, we seek to honor the unique culture and legacy of Montana's first peoples through our words and our actions.

Welcome and Announcements

Kathe Simons

- Liturgist sign-up sheet in the narthex.
- Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.
- Chime Choir: Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Invitation to Worship

adapted from Psalm 24

Lynn Bolin

One: The earth is God's and all that is in it,

All: The world, and those who live in it,

One: Who shall ascend the hill of God? And, who shall stand in God's holy place?

All: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,

One: They will receive God's blessing and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek God, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah!

All: Selah!

One: Lift up your heads, O gates! And, be lifted up, O ancient doors,

All: That the God of hosts may come in!

One: Selah!

All: Selah!

Gathering Hymn *"Lift up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"* 117 (NCH)

Unison Prayer (*please be seated*) Kathe Simons

Loving and Merciful God, in your house there is room for everyone. Help us to work for a world where everyone has a home and everyone's needs are met. Give us the grace and courage to welcome strangers and refugees into our midst as neighbors, and give us the insight to see where there is inequality, so that we might bring justice and healing to those who need it. [We invite you to rest in this brief moment of silence to listen for God's loving message for you this day.] Amen.

Assurance of Grace Lynn Bolin

People of God, hear the good news! God is always working alongside us as we strive to create a world of justice, mercy, and love. God gives us the strength and the perseverance to go out into our communities to form relationships and help those in need. With God's help, we can make things better. Never forget that you are the blessing that God is sending out into the world. Amen.

Congregational Response *"I Come with Joy"* 349 (NCH)

Prayer of Illumination

Rev. Sara Branom

Eternal God, you are our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Be with us now as we listen for your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:17-37

As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.' "

He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth."

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

And the disciples were perplexed at these words.

But, Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”

Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Musical Interlude

“Go Ye Therefore” - McDonald

Plymouth Choir

Pastoral Reflection

Musical Reflection

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Sara Branom

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
They will come from east and west,
and from north and south,
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.
According to Luke,
when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
he took the bread, and blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened
and they recognized him.
This is the Lord’s table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
to share the feast which he has prepared.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

The Communion Prayer

Kathe Simons

Special Prayers: Maxine Ferguson, Art Gilreath, Loraine Hopgood, Jim and Doris Powell, Marlyce Taylor, and Giles Walker. The people of Israel, Palestine, Russia, Ukraine, Venezuela and all who are experiencing the horrors of war. The victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Medical Treatment/Healing: Greg Bolin, Lynn Bolin, Gus Byrom, Richard Burns, Mary Jacobson, Nancy Michelson, Karen Mills, Kelly Murphy, Brenda Senne, and Diane Vares.

Bereavement: The families of Ed Canty and Jen Butler, and the families of the victims of gun violence and natural disasters.

The Lord's Prayer:

O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe,
You are our Shepherd Chief in the most high place.
Whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon.
Whatever you want done, let it, also be done everywhere.
Give us your gift of bread day by day.
Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us.
Take us away from wrong doings.
Free us from all evil.
For everything belongs to you.
Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen.

- Hattie Corbett Enos, of the Nez Perce tribe

Bread

On the night that Jesus was arrested, he was celebrating the Passover with his friends, to remember the time that God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Israelites had to leave so quickly that their bread didn't have time to rise, and so the bread became a symbol of freedom. But, this Passover was different, because Jesus said that he was the bread, because he would free them from sin and from death. And, after he blessed it, he broke it saying, "This is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat of it, remember me."

Cup

In the same manner after supper, he took the cup. And, after he poured into it, he blessed it saying, "This cup is the new covenant, sealed in my blood. I am the vine, and you are the branches, cut off from me, you can do nothing. Whenever you drink of it, remember me." For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ until he comes again.

Communion

Let Us Break Bread Together

Prayer After Communion

Loving God,
we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
in your eternal kingdom.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

— TODAY'S MINISTERS —

The People of Plymouth Congregational Church, assisted by

Rev. Sara Branom—Guest Pastor

Michael Blanchard—Liturgists

Dr. Steve Michelson, Plymouth Choir—Music

Carol McKerrow—Liturgical Art

—ANNOUNCEMENTS —

Sign-up sheets for liturgists in the narthex.

Welcome Visitors and Prayer Card in your pew rack. We are delighted to have you worshipping with us today. Please let us know your prayer requests and anything else you'd like to share. Place your card in the offering plate.

Just Coffee! Contact Gus Byrom or Dick Mayer to buy your coffee and help support ministry (\$12/lb).

YOU'RE INVITED!

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.—Fireside Room.

Plymouth Chimers (Chime Choir): Tuesdays 1:30 p.m.—meet in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join in the fun.

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Office Manager Alane's e-mail—pccofficemgr@gmail.com

Office Hours—Tuesday through Thursday—9am to 1pm

Pastor Charles' e-mail—pastorplymouthmt@gmail.com

Pastor Office Hours—Tuesdays and Thursdays—9am to 4pm